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5977-01-EJB

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/936,680

Applicant: COX, ET AL

Filed: 09/14/2001

Title: NOVEL FAMILY OF BETA SUB-UNIT PROTEINS FROM A VOLTAGE-GATED SODIUM CHANNEL, NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING THEM AND THERAPEUTIC OR DIAGNOSTIC USES THEREOF

TC/A.U.: 1646

Examiner: BASI, NIRMAL SINGH

Docket No.: 5977-01

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

April 1, 2004

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 17, 2003, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following remarks and amendments. A petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action for one month, from March 17, 2004 to April 17, 2004 is being submitted concurrently herewith.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper, and include a new abstract which is attached.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings are reflected in the attached sheet and in comments in the Remarks section.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.